AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claims, and listings of claims, in the application.

1. **(Currently Amended):** A steering apparatus comprising:

a steering drive shaft capable of moving in an axial direction in response to a steering operation;

a housing accommodating the steering drive shaft and having a tube part extending in a long axis direction of the steering drive shaft; ~~and~~

a bracket having a fitting hole into which said tube part is fitted in a co-axial direction of the tube part and which said tube part penetrates and configured to attach said housing to a car body; and

a bearing member fitted inside the tube part, and supporting the steering drive shaft, and wherein

said bracket has a recess in said fitting hole, and

said tube part has at least one escape preventing protrusion bent into said recess and extending in a radial direction of the tube part, for preventing said bracket from escaping.

2. **(Original):** The steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recess is a circular groove.

3. **(Previously Presented):** The steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tube part is metal.

4. **(Canceled).**

5. **(Previously Presented):** The steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recess includes a circumferential groove.

6. **(Previously Presented):** The steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one escape preventing protrusion includes a plurality of escape preventing protrusions.

7. **(New):** A steering apparatus comprising:

a steering drive shaft capable of moving in an axial direction in response to a steering operation;

a housing accommodating the steering drive shaft and having a tube part extending in a long axis direction of the steering drive shaft; and

a bracket having a fitting hole into which said tube part is fitted in a co-axial direction of the tube part and attaching said housing to a car body, and wherein

said bracket has a recess in said fitting hole, and

said tube part has at least one escape preventing protrusion bent into said recess and extending in a radial direction of the tube part, for preventing said bracket from escaping.

8. **(New):** The steering apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the bracket is a single molded piece.

9. **(New):** The steering apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the recess is pre-formed in the bracket prior to the bending into of the at least one escape preventing protrusion.

10. **(New):** The steering apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the at least one escape preventing protrusion bent into said recess permanently prevents said bracket from escaping.